

CLAIMS

1. A method of manufacturing a fixed denture (18,58)
5 comprising:
 identifying the surface of a tooth preparation
 (110);
 relating the identified surface to a near net
shape version of the denture (120); and
10 altering the near net shape version (130) to
produce a denture having an inner profile which
substantially replicates the surface of the tooth
preparation (140).
- 15 2. A method according to claim 1 wherein, the inner
profile includes an offset (36).
3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein,
the surface of the tooth is identified by digitising
20 the surface.
4. A method according to claim 3 wherein, data
produced when the surface is digitised is manipulated
by one or both of producing a wax model (54) or virtual
25 wax-up of the denture.
5. A method according to claim 3 wherein, data
produced when the surface is digitised is related to a
near net shape version using best fit techniques.
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6. A method according to any preceding claim wherein,
the near net shape is altered by machining.

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7. A method according to any preceding claim wherein, the near net shape version is a pre-formed sintered ceramic shell (20).

5 8. A method according to claim 7 wherein, the pre-formed sintered ceramic shell (20) comprises one of a plurality of standard tooth shapes (40) from which the most appropriate shape is chosen.

10 9. A method according to claim 7 wherein, the pre-formed sintered ceramic shell (20) comprises an individually produced tooth shape (42).

10. A method according to any of claims 7 to 9
15 wherein, the pre-formed sintered ceramic shell (20) is made by one of single (48) or double (49) sided pressing.

11. A method according to claim 1 wherein, a reference
20 feature (60) is provided on both the near net shape version (50) and the preparation.

12. A fixed denture manufactured according to any preceding claim.

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